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The Deputy Director

Central Intelligence Agency

80 - 5005/

Washington, D. C. 20505

September 3, 1980

The Honorable John A. Gronouski Chairman Board for International Broadcasting Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Mr. James Critchlow of your staff has approached the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) with the request that FBIS provide the Board for International Broadcasting (BIB) with the FBIS wire service and FBIS's confidential publication "Trends in Communist Media."

In considering this request, I have borne in mind CIA's former relationship with Radio Free Europe (RFE) and Radio Liberty (RL) and the fact that communist propaganda continues to claim that the two radios are "espionage centers maintained and directed by the Central Intelligence Agency." (The quotation is from a 25 July 1980 Moscow radio broadcast, excerpts from which are attached.)

As you know, William Colby, the former Pirector of Central Intelligence, and your predecessor, David M. Abshire, in September 1974 agreed that all future CIA-BIB contacts should be indirect. State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (State/INR) agreed to serve as the channel for such contacts. Since that agreement, CIA has avoided any action that might be used by adversaries of the U.S. Government to "substantiate" their claims of continuing CIA involvement with RFE and RL. For example, even when an overt CIA political analyst wishes to discuss Soviet Bloc affairs with RFE/RL personnel in Munich, arrangements are made through State/INR, and Munich Consulate personnel contact RFE/RL to make the desired appointments. In short, all CIA personnel contacts since 1974 have been indirect, consistent with the Colby-Abshire agreement.

As to your request for the FBIS wire service and the FBIS publication "Trends in Communist Media," which is classified confidential for six months and then automatically

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declassified, I am prepared to respond positively if you concur in the following procedures. First, I am prepared to have the FBIS wire service, which now is available in several Executive Branch offices, installed in BIB's Washington offices. Second, I am also willing to make available "Trends in Communist Media," provided it is kept in CIA-approved safe storage facilities in your offices in Washington. Given CIA's past association with RFE/RL, I prefer not to provide FBIS materials directly to RFE and RL offices either in the United States or abroad.

Upon notification through State/INR of your concurrence, FBIS will proceed to make available the requested materials.

> Sincerely, Frank C. Carlucci

Attachment:

Moscow Radio Excerpts

(18Aug80)

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